

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To prevent States and local jurisdictions from interfering with services held
at houses of worship, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. GOOD of Virginia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To prevent States and local jurisdictions from interfering
with services held at houses of worship, and for other
purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Religion
5 from Government Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION AGAINST INTERFERENCE BY STATE**

7 **AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITH SERVICES**

8 **HELD AT HOUSES OF WORSHIP.**

9 Consistent with First Amendment to the Constitution
10 of the United States, the government of a State or locality

1 therein may not impose any law or regulation limiting the
2 ability for any house of worship to hold any religious serv-
3 ice or celebrate any religious ceremony in person as such
4 house of worship determines is appropriate.

5 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL CAUSE OF ACTION TO CHALLENGE STATE**
6 **AND LOCAL REGULATION OF INTERSTATE**
7 **COMMERCE.**

8 (a) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—A person, includ-
9 ing an individual or religious institution, affected by a law
10 or regulation of a State or unit of local government lim-
11 iting the ability for any house of worship to hold services
12 in person may bring an action in the appropriate district
13 court to invalidate such a law or regulation.

14 (b) PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION.—Upon a motion of
15 the plaintiff described in subsection (a), the court shall
16 issue a preliminary injunction to preclude the State or unit
17 of local government from enforcing the law or regulation
18 at issue until such time as the court enters a final judg-
19 ment in the case, unless the State or unit of local govern-
20 ment proves by clear and convincing evidence that—

21 (1) the State or unit of local government is like-
22 ly to prevail on the merits at trial; and

23 (2) the injunction would cause irreparable harm
24 to the State or unit of local government.

1 (c) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—No action shall be
2 maintained under this section unless it is commenced
3 within 10 years after the cause of action arose.